

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 35-51.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-34 will have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 35-51 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objection and allowance of claims 35-51 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has stated that the application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matter that the claims withdrawn with traverse must be cancelled in order to put the case in condition for allowance, or modified to include the same special technical feature. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-34. Accordingly, in view of the above noted amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Further, the Official Action included objections to the claims that may have required amendments which amount to more than mere formal matters. Therefore, it is believed that the Official Action under Ex Parte Quayle is improper, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims should properly be entered as a matter of right.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 35-51.

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the Official Action Under Ex parte Quayle, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims 35-51 in the present invention. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recites a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the combination of features recited therein.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

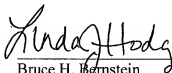
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and claims 35-51 therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda J. Hodge".

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